**GOD’S STORY IN PHILLIPSBURG**

(Back story to the vision-Pastor Randy)

When we first started talking about our fellowship purchasing a bigger building or purchasing land to build on, there were a number of reasons for taking this faith-filled risk. The pragmatic or physical reasons were clear. The buildings we had were over-used and no longer able to meet the growing needs of our church family and its ministries and “room for growth” was non-existent. We desired to reach the community around us and were already doing three Sunday services. With almost unanimous consent, we joyously started a life-changing spiritual journey together,

Most of us know the road block we encountered just months after and it seemed that we would not be able to continue in the direction we were convinced God was leading us. After 10 years and much engineering and working with the NJDEP we were given permission to build on the land God had given us. Over those years many things have changed including the purchase of the Crossbar and a turnover of people through a number of factors. Many today do not know much about why we are moving forward and many have never even visited our spacious property although we have held many worship services there. It is my hope in this to share why we “press on” in this Kingdom work. And I think that you will find that the vision is the same as it was 90 years ago when the Christian and Missionary Alliance came to Phillipsburg.

There are five major reasons (among many lesser ones) why we need to join together in this new building project.

1. We do this for God. It is he who answered our prayers over and over again concerning not only if we should build but where. We laid out 5 difficult fleeces that we would take, if answered positively, as God’s confirmation that we were to move forward. Each was answered clearly. We are to do all that we do to the Glory of God and we believe that God is in this and will be glorified in it. Some say the God does not care about brick and mortar, buildings and the like. That is a nice platitude but it isn’t Scriptural. God is a builder from the first verse of Genesis to the last chapters of Revelation. He delights in building and has even commanded his people to build building for him. We are told that his glory resides in the Temple of Solomon and in the Heavenly Temple. We build that God might somehow receive glory in every use of this facility.
2. We do this for Us. Often it is said that the “lost matter to God”. That is true. But so do the “found”. It is our expectation and desire to use this larger and newer facility to help the body of Christ grow closer to Him and to each other. The restrictions of our current facilities are often felt throughout the week as more and more types of ministries are begun. In addition to that, we are also restricted in things we would like to do but the confinements of our buildings will not allow them. Jesus ld us through e writer of Hebrews that we {the family of God} were not to forsake the gathering together. This will become even more critical as the return of Christ draws near.
3. We do this for those who have never known Christ in our area. Over 61,000 people live within a 5-mile radius of our new site. Most of them are un-churched and have never heard the name of Jesus. With a multipurpose room that will allow for basketball/ volleyball/large gatherings and a unified worship, many of those who have never entered a church before will have a new reason to “come through the doors.” It will be a facility that can reach our community in ways that are not available now.
4. We do this for our society. We all know that our communities are moving farther away from godliness and that the impact of churches on their larger communities in shrinking. It is our vision to be a “hub of influence” that will be respected and looked to for direction. Such was the case in the early years of our nation and up to the last few generations. The change was not so much that people didn’t need what the church was sharing but that the church started to isolate from the communities for a number of reasons. That has to change immediately or our influence on our culture and our immediate region will continue to shrink.
5. We do it for the World. From the first day this church existed, its heart was for missions. With every expansion that we have made, the impact we have had in supporting those who serve in other parts of the world has increased greatly. As a result, many who otherwise would never had heard the name of Jesus are being saved and disciple. We expect that this will continue to be the pattern as long as our hearts remain in tune with His.

The affect that we can have with this project is far reaching and long lasting. It is our hope that you will be led by the Lord to join in yet another life changing spiritual journey and may we all draw ever closer to the Lord through it.

The vision of Phillipsburg Alliance is a clear and concise expression of why we are what we are as a part of the Church of Jesus. The Mission statement tells us how we fulfill that calling to vision.

From this people should understand that the Liberty Road project is not the end in itself, but that it is a means to reach the vision. It is one tool that He gives us so that the ministries of the church can fulfill our God given call.

**Phillipsburg Alliance Church mission is**

**[our articulation of the Great Commission/Commandment—“why we exist”]**

God changes people through us

*“From Him the whole Body grows…as each part does it’s work” Eph 4:16)*

**Phillipsburg Alliance Church Vision is to…**

**[our task, goal and plan—“how we do it”]**

… Effectively communicate God’s grace to all people

(*“This is for your benefit…so that grace reaches more people…to the glory of God”* 2 Cor 4:15)

**Purposes for Phillipsburg Alliance ministries:**

(*Devoted to teaching, fellowship, worship, and outreach… Acts 2:42)*

**God uses Ministries of *teaching/discipleship:***

Sunday School Young Adult Group

VBS Theological Round Table/Seminars

Victory in Freedom Small/Cell groups

Celebrate Recovery “Step Study” Men & Women ministries

Worship Services New Members Class

Counseling Mission Trips

Mission Committee Mission Conference

Prayer Meeting Financial Peace University

Capital Campaign

**God uses Ministries of *fellowship:***

Young Adult Group Small/ Cell groups

Men & Women ministries Deacons—Trustees—Elders

Ushers Choir Ministry

Capital Campaign

**God uses Ministries of *worship:***

Worship services Baptismal services

Choir Ministry Praise Team

Ushers Corporate Prayer

Capital Campaign

**God uses Ministries of *outreach:***

CR “Main meeting” Walk with Jesus

Victory in Freedom Hospital Visitation

Deacons—Trustees Ushers

Greeters Gun Shoots

Community Breakfast Family Promise

Mission Trips AWOL

Nursing Home Ministry Movie Night

Financial Peace University Capital Campaign

All ministries of the local church must come under at least one of these four biblical definitions and all must align their ministry with the vision and mission of the congregation.